

Occupational Compensation Survey

Technical Note

The Occupational Compensation Survey program provides information on the average hourly and weekly earnings for selected occupations for approximately 100 metropolitan areas and 70 nonmetropolitan counties. In addition, the survey provides selected employee benefits data for some areas. The survey covers establishments with 50 workers or more in the private nonfarm sector and in State and local government, excluding private households, the Federal Government, and the self-employed. Surveys are conducted throughout the year on a sample basis. The sample for each area is selected based on industry and size.

The occupations covered by the survey are common to a variety of public and private industries. Occupations are classified using a uniform set of job descriptions, designed to take into account inter-establishment variation in duties within the same job.

The survey provides data on full-time workers by straight-time earnings for selected professional, administrative, technical, protective service, clerical, maintenance, toolroom, material movement, and custodial jobs. Pay increases under cost-of-living allowance clauses and incentive payments are included in these data, but premium pay for overtime and for work on weekends, holidays, and shift differentials,

nonproduction bonuses, and profit-sharing payments are not. Weekly hours refer to the standard workweek for which employees receive regular straight-time salaries.

For some occupations, pay data may not be available at the industry or all-industry (overall) level because either the data do not provide statistically reliable results, or the data may disclose individual establishment data. All-industry estimates combine data from each industry, even though pay data may not appear separately for each industry division.

The following tables provide all-industry occupational pay averages for five surveys conducted. Published data from these surveys provide greater industry detail, as well as pay distribution, occupational descriptions, and an explanation of survey methods.

Additional Information

For further information, contact the Division of Compensation Data Analysis and Planning, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Washington, DC 20212-0001. Telephone: (202) 606-6220. E-mail: ocltinfo@bls.gov World Wide Web access: <http://stats.bls.gov>

Table C-1. Average weekly pay in all industries for white-collar occupations, in selected areas, 1996¹

Occupation ² and level	Area and reference month				
	Boston CMSA	Chicago CMSA	Columbus MSA	Huntsville MSA	Portland CMSA
	June	June	January	March	July
Professional					
Accountants.....	\$ 797	\$ 838	\$ 748	\$ 700	\$ 726
1.....	545	542	510	-	518
2.....	628	637	610	562	602
3.....	803	781	774	727	800
4.....	1,021	1,035	977	1,005	1,045
5.....	1,424	1,348	1,259	-	1,284
6.....	1,857	1,955	-	-	-
Accountants, Public.....	-	-	-	-	-
1.....	-	593	-	-	-
2.....	607	644	-	-	563
3.....	707	752	-	-	-
4.....	-	1,037	-	-	1,038
Attorneys.....	1,358	-	1,043	-	1,204
1.....	-	-	731	-	-
2.....	-	934	954	-	950
3.....	1,441	1,281	1,158	-	1,289
4.....	1,975	1,693	1,437	-	-
Engineers.....	1,199	1,116	1,092	1,072	1,091
1.....	684	733	680	635	706
2.....	809	834	801	-	804
3.....	995	987	983	923	954
4.....	1,162	1,203	1,180	-	1,159
5.....	1,391	1,461	-	-	1,380
6.....	1,681	1,749	-	-	-
7.....	1,909	2,111	-	1,718	1,999
8.....	2,505	-	-	-	-
Scientists.....	1,085	1,049	980	-	-
1.....	629	630	661	-	-
2.....	752	794	798	-	788
3.....	905	1,018	900	-	887
4.....	1,157	1,200	1,095	-	1,127
5.....	1,441	1,407	1,264	-	1,420
6.....	1,747	1,702	-	-	-
7.....	2,016	-	-	-	-
Administrative					
Budget Analysts.....	787	-	814	-	842
1.....	-	-	664	-	-
2.....	657	656	-	-	-
3.....	791	816	997	-	-
4.....	1,095	-	-	-	-
Buyers/Contracting Specialists..	791	740	670	666	721
1.....	556	508	551	447	572
2.....	695	693	643	578	648
3.....	890	859	790	768	892
4.....	1,038	1,090	-	944	1,086

See footnotes at end of table 2.

Table C-1. Average weekly pay in all industries for white-collar occupations, in selected areas, 1996 ¹-Continued

Occupation ² and level	Area and reference month				
	Boston CMSA	Chicago CMSA	Columbus MSA	Huntsville MSA	Portland CMSA
	June	June	January	March	July
Protective Service					
Corrections Officers.....	-	\$ 623	\$ 538	\$ 385	\$ 678
Firefighters.....	\$ 639	-	743	462	768
Police Officers.....	638	819	692	530	801
1.....	638	816	692	513	800
2.....	-	972	-	681	875
Clerical					
Clerks, Accounting.....	472	447	445	399	435
2.....	421	406	379	360	387
3.....	491	462	464	432	458
4.....	595	610	546	633	561
Clerks, General.....	457	407	425	375	399
1.....	-	310	-	-	-
2.....	-	356	350	329	327
3.....	438	434	429	339	420
4.....	-	524	454	485	459
Order Clerks.....	-	419	382	-	-
2.....	503	469	-	-	-
Key Entry Operators.....	420	391	395	320	368
1.....	380	347	364	312	341
2.....	448	435	425	389	-
Personnel Assistants.....	504	504	522	403	508
2.....	437	425	-	387	440
3.....	522	528	482	452	526
4.....	646	609	612	-	-
Secretaries.....	578	583	519	468	544
1.....	447	455	391	368	426
2.....	511	533	485	416	470
3.....	581	593	551	518	548
4.....	677	699	613	590	642
5.....	798	798	-	-	-
Switchboard Operator- Receptionists.....	402	361	342	294	358
Word Processors.....	504	-	479	369	419
1.....	-	-	435	-	-
2.....	497	538	506	394	416
3.....	-	584	-	-	-

See footnotes at end of table 2.

Table C-1. Average weekly pay in all industries for white-collar occupations, in selected areas, 1996 ¹ -Continued

Occupation ² and level	Area and reference month				
	Boston CMSA	Chicago CMSA	Columbus MSA	Huntsville MSA	Portland CMSA
	June	June	January	March	July
Computer Programmers.....	\$ 725	\$ 808	\$ 774	-	\$ 709
1.....	559	593	559	\$ 549	-
2.....	647	681	662	627	644
3.....	750	818	785	782	797
4.....	906	1,048	-	-	-
Computer Systems Analysts.....	1,024	1,022	954	912	907
1.....	792	834	801	755	755
2.....	964	969	906	890	908
3.....	1,120	1,132	1,060	1,053	1,087
4.....	1,333	-	1,210	1,034	-
Computer Systems Analyst Supervisors/Managers.....	1,439	1,433	1,281	1,552	1,238
1.....	1,258	1,254	-	-	1,170
2.....	1,419	1,504	1,258	-	1,329
3.....	1,596	-	1,455	-	-
Personnel Specialists.....	884	925	838	766	821
1.....	-	527	-	-	-
2.....	630	635	656	571	585
3.....	814	814	780	779	815
4.....	1,105	1,070	1,063	977	1,054
5.....	1,341	1,471	1,277	-	1,355
Personnel Supervisors/Managers	1,510	1,604	1,343	1,322	-
1.....	1,159	1,054	-	-	-
2.....	1,503	1,547	-	-	-
3.....	1,754	2,124	-	-	-
Director of Personnel.....	1,399	1,373	1,435	-	-
1.....	-	1,086	-	-	-
2.....	1,286	1,368	-	-	-
Tax Collectors.....	-	-	-	-	495
1.....	-	616	-	-	450
2.....	-	-	510	-	583
3.....	-	846	-	-	-
Technical					
Computer Operators.....	554	538	509	447	515
1.....	-	416	404	334	-
2.....	466	473	478	430	473
3.....	584	576	534	573	582
4.....	728	691	600	-	-
Drafters.....	-	601	-	617	553
2.....	494	509	-	484	-
3.....	-	631	-	569	-
4.....	912	-	-	-	-
Engineering Technicians.....	763	767	622	624	705
2.....	-	557	-	-	511
3.....	705	672	-	630	611
4.....	814	812	-	838	727
5.....	955	-	-	-	892
Engineering Technicians, Civil....	682	-	594	-	674
1.....	-	-	-	-	405
2.....	-	-	515	395	528
3.....	574	627	615	509	616
4.....	-	-	676	-	735
5.....	-	933	726	-	-
6.....	-	-	-	-	914

See footnotes at end of table 2.

Table C-2. Average hourly pay in all industries for blue-collar occupations, in selected areas, 1996¹

Occupation ² and level	Area and reference month				
	Boston CMSA	Chicago CMSA	Columbus MSA	Huntsville MSA	Portland CMSA
	June	June	January	March	July
Maintenance and Toolroom					
General Maintenance Workers.....	\$ 12.35	\$ 12.88	\$ 11.57	\$ 10.06	\$ 11.59
1.....	11.95	10.32	10.28	9.35	10.51
2.....	14.62	15.56	13.62	10.66	14.37
Maintenance Electricians.....	19.10	20.07	16.83	19.91	18.66
Maintenance Electronics Technicians.....	17.65	19.46	16.22	15.10	16.64
1.....	-	-	-	11.37	-
2.....	16.48	19.78	15.42	16.18	17.39
3.....	-	-	19.59	-	20.26
Maintenance Machinists.....	16.90	18.13	15.92	16.55	17.09
Maintenance Mechanics, Machinery.....	17.42	18.15	16.45	20.02	16.25
Maintenance Mechanics, Motor Vehicle.....	17.52	18.28	14.30	14.31	16.25
Maintenance Pipefitters.....	19.57	23.90	-	-	-
Skilled Multi-Craft Maintenance Workers.....	18.47	19.63	19.04	-	-
Tool and Die Makers.....	17.66	19.47	18.44	20.69	21.14
Material Movement and Custodial					
Guards.....	8.32	7.27	-	-	9.81
1.....	8.04	6.84	-	-	9.26
2.....	11.98	12.08	10.75	-	11.79
Janitors.....	9.08	9.19	8.18	5.74	7.93
Material Movement and Storage Workers.....	11.12	11.18	11.88	9.49	11.42
1.....	-	9.01	-	7.65	-
2.....	12.37	11.29	-	10.58	11.38
Forklift Operators.....	-	-	12.01	10.76	12.17
Shipping/Receiving Clerks.....	-	10.15	12.83	10.72	-
3.....	-	16.01	-	-	-
Truckdrivers.....	14.41	15.38	-	11.52	13.23
Light Truck.....	10.04	-	8.94	-	8.54
Medium Truck.....	-	15.45	-	-	-
Heavy Truck.....	12.30	18.16	-	9.97	-
Tractor Trailer.....	14.71	15.66	16.43	-	13.28

¹ These areas were selected because they were among the first in a series of surveys which were collected using the updated 1995 Manual of Job Descriptions. These new survey publications present data for overall as well as individual occupational levels. The average payroll month for Columbus, OH was January, 1996; for Huntsville, AL, March, 1996; for Boston-Worcester-Lawrence, MA-NH-ME-CT and Chicago-Gary-Kenosha, IL-IN-WI, June, 1996; and for Portland-Salem, OR-WA, July, 1996.

² The Bureau's Occupational Compensation Survey covers 42 different occupations, many of which are distinguished with multiple levels. See Appendix B in any of the published survey bulletins for the job descriptions used by field economists in classifying workers. Those occupations and levels which do not appear on these tables failed the Bureau's publishability criteria which ensure both respondent confidentiality and statistical accuracy.